Hingham Apr. 12, 1840

Dear Miss Weston,

I have deferred writing to you from day to day and from week to week, for sometime past, having a strong impression that I should see you, that I must see you. What a long time has elapsed since you were here, & how much has occurred that interests us both. Indeed time seems wonderfully fruitful in stirring events, & happy shall we be if we improve them aright.

We feel deep gratitude here, that Providence has sent us a minister, a man too we think after Gods own heart, in whom we are all united, and whom we all love; a faithful true man, strait forward to do his duty without fear or favor; possessing the purest of purposes, and a most holy independence. A perfect contrast to the one that formerly preached to us. I hope he will regenerate the town. We perceive a sensible change in the number that attend church, & I hope other good changes will follow. Our Abolition Meetings, are drawing more & more people, though I question the motives of many that are entering now. It is through love of Mr. Stearns, rather than love of the slave. The Temperance cause, our minister has very much at heart; he has endeavoured to carry out what every one says should be done, that is, moral suasion. He has been to converse with Mr. Strong of the Old Colony house, & Mr Little of the Union, & it has produced a great fluttering among the tavern plantters. Mr. Little was very angry and many others, who felt themselves hit. And even those, who would have rejoiced to have had it done under any other circumstances, were sorry to have Mr. Stearns render himself odious with any class. He gave his Installation sermon last sunday installed himself into the office, and Mr Smith made the prayer. His sermon was upon the duties and the spirit that belonged to the Christian minister, & this morning

Do excuse this letter I have written most of it at the table with boys writing at the same time & questioning me and others constantly

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he was upon the corresponding duties of the people. I could not conceive of a standard more elevated than he took for himself, & he would have us aim as high. Since Dr. Follen has passed away from among us, I know of no man that I should prefer to Mr. Stearns. I believe I have not written to you since that awful catastrophe, that deprived the world of the best of men; & of course you know not how much we felt. It filled our thoughts day and night, to the exclusion of almost every thing else, for a long time. You and those who knew him entirely, and who could reckon him among your personal friends, must have been almost overwhelmed, and with great difficulty resigned him into the hands of his Heavenly father. And what a shame the Unitarians of Boston have put upon themselves, by withholding their houses, that a full enumeration of his virtues may not be given. Disgraceful inconsistency. It shows that all their love & admiration of Dr. Follen was a pretence. I wish we could have the Eulogy here, but Mr. May is so unpopular, that I suppose few would go to hear it.

Do you remember the Hobarts here Miss Weston, & do you know that two of the daughters went to Raleigh N.C. some time ago & that one of them married there? She is now on here with her husband, & I hope he will go back a good Abolitionist. He attends church very constantly, & he has heard some warm Abolition sermons; still he continues to go, and likes the preaching. The first time he went to church, Mr. May preached upon his favorite topic freedom, but he went again in the afternoon. Mr. Smith has called to see him, but they did not get directly upon the subject of slavery, they are however by mutual desire to have a talk upon it by & by. He is very much pleased with this part of the country, & gave Mr Smith some awful accounts of the ignorance of the people at the South. He says seven tenths of the white citizens of North Carolina cannot read & write. His wife told some of her young friends here, that she had not had a quiet night's rest since she went on, until she reached Philadelphia on her return, she was so afraid of the slaves rising. Still they go back.

Did you know, Miss Weston, that we talked of going to Washing

tion in the next vacation? We are making arrangements, and if Congress does not rise, we shall probably go. I wish you would go with us. We should like to get up something of a party. Eliza Thaxter accompanies us, & perhaps Miss Tidmarsh and Mrs. Parker of Boston. I am little afraid that Congress will not be in session until the last of May, although I am ashamed to say so, ashamed to be so unpatriotic; for I sincerely believe it would be better for the country if every Senator & Representative should go immediately to his home. We intend to be gone from home between two and three weeks. We wish to stay one week at the Capital, a few days at Philadelphia, a short time at New York & New Haven.

What does this notice in the Liberator of last week mean, a meeting appointed for the Boston Female Anti S. society, to choose officers, with no Miss Parker's or Miss Ball's name affixed. Has there been an amicable division? I am much interested in that society, & I am sometimes amused & sometimes grieved to hear the contradictory reports from different individuals. I learn something of its doings from you and the Liberator, and something more through Anna Thaxter, who has her information from Mrs. Child. Then I have the reverse of the picture, an entire contrary statement, from the Hunts, who are members of the society. I understand Susan went up to attend a meeting last Wednesday. I have just seen that the Atlas of yesterday contains a notice of a Resolution that was passed, dissolving the Society by a very full majority. It strikes me, on running it over, that the preamble to the Resolve is very just and true. Do the ten that voted against it make this call to choose officers? I thought it might be from the fact, that just ten signed the notice for choosing officers. And have these ten formed themselves into a society and taken the old name since the resolve was past dissolving that society? But I will not question any more, I shall know all in time. When may we see you here, the Boat now runs, why can you not come

with us Mr Smith
long & desire to see
read me some very
has composed to
the eve of her depar
that she is going to

and spend a sunday
& Marcia send their
you. Mr Smith has just
pathetic strains that he
send to Martha Ann an
ture. you know I presum
otherwise.

E. A. L. Smith
1841

Miss Caroline Weston

Roxbury.

Mass.

Mr. Lincoln.